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Your own backyard
Adventure awaits
on page 2

New season, new faces
How Reform + Restore has shifted gears
on page 5

Miraculous maple
Spring kicks off the sweet season
on page 12

Happy St. Patrick's Day!
All smiles for the festive day at a past Legion luncheon on March 17. Here's to a lucky spring ahead! /FILE

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In our own backyard

KATE BUTLER
County Life Contributor

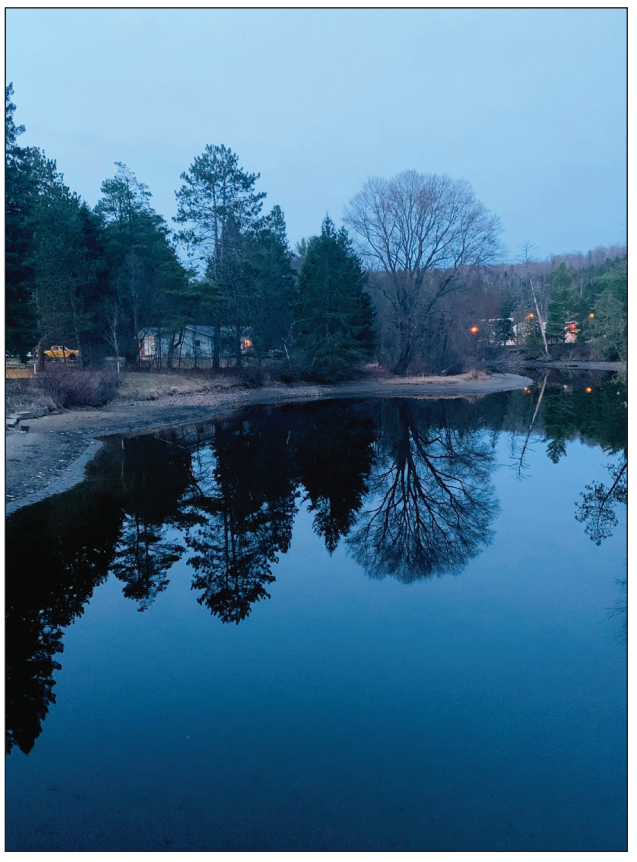
If you've recently visited the Haliburton Highlands Museum, you might have noticed a world map mounted near our front door. This year, we're inviting our visitors to add a pin to share where they call home. We didn't think it would take long before our map started to fill, but even within the first couple of months of 2025, it already had some surprises for us.

In addition to many pins from southern Ontario, the map already boasts pins on every single continent (apart from Antarctica). While each pin on the map comes with a visitor's story, a couple in particular stick out in my mind. Some of our first visitors of the year were a group where some hailed from Rio de Janeiro, while others were visiting from Mozambique. They were clearly keen to take advantage of the winter weather which was a bit of a novelty to them, so we loaned them snowshoes to use to explore the Glebe Park trails and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. It was the first time any of them had ever used snowshoes and I have to admit, I expected that their hike might be brief, but they explored the trails for several hours, in spite of the snow and cold. On the flip side, in late February, we welcomed visitors from Yakutsk. If the name sounds familiar, it might be because Yakutsk, located in Siberia, is often touted on social media and weather services as the coldest major city on earth. The city has experienced record winter lows which have dipped as far as minus 64 degrees Celsius. These visitors joked with us that winter in the Highlands was much warmer than the weather they were used to at home and that they thought the weather here was perfect for a barbeque.

I'm sharing these stories as a reminder of the fact that visitors from all over the world come to the Highlands, and they make those visits during different seasons and for different reasons. It can be fun to see the Highlands through their eyes. Even though I would say that those of us who live in the Highlands find it easy to recognize that our community is special, there can also be a tendency to become accustomed to a place and thus view it with a different lens. For instance, I grew up in Toronto, and I have to admit that I'm fairly certain that the last time I visited the CN Tower was on an elementary school trip. I'm sure we can all think of similar examples. In many cases, it's when friends and family come to visit that we head out to explore what's in our own backyards. With spring starting to unfold, it's the perfect time to play tourist in our own community, even if you don't have visitors coming to stay. You might check out a local attraction you haven't visited in a while, or it could be something as simple as walking a new trail you've never hiked. Maybe a new restaurant has caught your eye or there's a shop you keep meaning to pop into each time you pass by but never do. There's so much to celebrate and explore right here and right now, so let's enjoy what makes visitors travel from all over the world to the Haliburton Highlands!

There's lots to do in the our own backyard, including Chaga workshops with Steve Lukacic. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Where is this destination that is in our own backyard? If you guessed Wintergreen Maple, you're right!



The Gull River in Minden is a hot spot in the spring season.

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Foodland *

Minden Valumart *

Rexall *

Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *

Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Murphy's Law

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

THIS WINTER feels soooooooo long! Karmic challenge? I still believe in this universe. But sometimes it uses weird rules. Does all this ancient granite hold answers? I need me some birdsong!

I'm no Debbie Downer. Maybe an occasional Gloomy Gus. With aging comes random impatience. I used to pride myself on being rational. Flexible. Tough. I even laughed about senior crankiness. Their fascination for weather. Health. Their love of routine, naps, predictability. As in sunrise, sunset. Tea.

I do love winter skies up here. Nighttime brings stardust. Daytime too, and surprises around our super-high feeders. Ravenous turkeys. Territorial chickadees. Squabbling rodents. I tiptoe to the front window, Earl Grey too hot to sip, and take a gander at our old red pine. CRACK! … its prettiest branch hits the lawn in fireworks of snow. Two manic red squirrels go flying.

Northern Lights are forecast for these parts tonight, and I've napped so I can venture at 8 p.m. deep-freeze to nearby hills for photos. Alerted my local pals too. But clouds sneak in around 7:59 p.m. iPhone did capture the glow of The Independent, though.

It's like rain on your wedding day. Or a plow dropping a mountain range at the foot of your hand-shovelled driveway. Or an official Snow Day that magically morphs from ice storm to tropical by lunchtime. Zipping up all your fancy outdoor layers, then having to pee. Or your neighbour trying out his giant new snowblower just when you've grabbed the first of 40 winks (so you can catch that lunar eclipse, rare comet AND auroras tonight…).

There actually was a real Murphy. Aerospace engineer Edward A. Murphy Jr. was testing rocket-sleds around 1948 when a mishap occurred. He supposedly uttered something like 'anything that can go wrong will go wrong'.

Inevitability is worrisome, and sometimes feels really unfair. And when you've collected a long enough string of ironies behind your name, you might have the right to feel unlucky, impatient or cranky. One recent experience will definitely always haunt me …

Unfortunately, a bold doe has discovered our fallen feeder seed. She's lately been bringing along her fawn, though drifts have been treacherous for most tenderfoots. I photographed her through the window, and noted her noting me. She staggered cautiously away, but left behind her young one to finish licking up the spill. Mother was Beatrix-Potter-beautiful, particularly big-eyed, graceful, and clearly training her kid to be a survivalist.

Another nearby neighbour just posted footage of a deadly aftermath deep inside her wilderness property. The giveaway was a tawny head with wide-open eyes. A doe. It lay decapitated in deep snow. The rest of her was either demolished, or streaked in red pieces across a shadowy hollow. Was it the same mother deer who'd been training her fawn? Most white-tailed females look identical, and there are hundreds around. We did hear coyotes summoning to gather the night before.

Such is actual nature. Such is rational life. Sunrise, sunset. Murphy sometimes drives a hard bargain, though!

Snowy squirrel by Debi Ireland

$595,000

21

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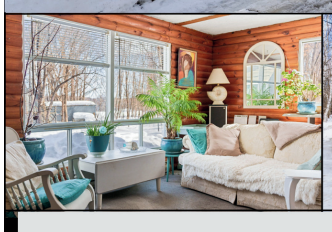

Main House
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· SALTWATER POOL

· 34' X 34' HEATED WORKSHOP
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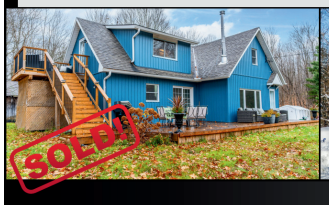

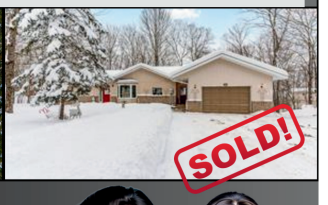

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JOB FAIR DAY 2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Gym

HHSS RED HAWKS

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www.hchba.ca

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HHSS IS WORKING TO ADDRESS THE EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTY!

Job Fair Day will be an event where businesses of all different sizes and industries from across Haliburton County will be on display in the high school gym for students to meet and learn what is available *close to home*. This is a perfect place for students to bring their resumes and talk to employers about co-op jobs, volunteer positions, summer jobs or post secondary employment.

This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

Questions?
Reach out to **Aggie Tose by phone at 705-457-6901 or by email info@hchba.ca**

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Writing on the Senior Side

Putting my elbows up

GAIL STELTER
County Life Contributor

John Milton (December 1608 – November 1674) was an extraordinary English writer of prose and poetry. After experiencing years of decline, Milton was blind by 1652 when he was 43. He had already written volumes of works, but many more works, including *Paradise Lost*, were yet to come. Following his blindness, Milton dictated his works to scribes, often family members and most frequently his daughters. I remember reading the poem *On His Blindness* in high school and the last line has never left me: *They also serve who only stand and wait.* I thought it was about being blind and not able to go to war but I was wrong. It was about being blind and how best to continue to serve God. Oh my, of course it makes sense, but I still can't think about it this way. I don't remember if a question about this was on my English exam but I sure would have messed it up if it was. For me it was always about impediments to participation in a great world-changing necessity or righteous endeavour. I couldn't leave my interpretation behind as I thought about my mom and the others in World Wars who remained at home. It became a life motto. I won't forget the good people today who also serve while they stand and wait. I will honour and appreciate all that they do to serve.

I find myself exploring my own service while I stand and wait. I wait to seize the happy, healthy days. I also wait for death, and lately I wait for the world to wake up and do something about what is happening with that man. I am proud of what my country is doing, and as a senior, with ever increasing age and associated limitations, I explore what I can do to serve.

Peter is standing at the fridge. The door is open and he checking labels. Our favourite dill pickles are made in the USA. We will find a Canadian producer. Tomato juice: Canadian, it stays. How about ketchup…oh, oh, gone, can't buy that brand again. Hurray for yummy Canadian cheese and what about the "Greek" salad dressing? Oh good, it's made in Canada. The check up continues.

We are the senior side Canadians who have been living in this great country the longest. In the past century, our families and their families chose this country. My ancestors came from Ireland and England and chose this as our home. We won't let down those who fought for our country and all who have gone before. We damn well won't let down our children and grandchildren. We won't let down all our wonderful more recent immigrants who chose to join us to be cherished citizens of the best country in the world. We won't let down the marginalized, and all the unique and wonderful individual differences that enrich all our lives. We are here for you all. We are the senior siders and although we have individual journeys, worries, happy times, and struggles, we have never backed away from doing right. We are Elbows Up Canadian Baby Boomers and Seniors! This is how we will serve.

In elections, candidates often spend time telling us all the bad things about their opponents instead of telling us all the good things they are planning to do to make our country grow. I don't care for this type of electioneering hype. I guess it is a sad reality. I just want to fact check and be sure I am reading truth, not lies or half truths. We can error by omission as well as by falsehoods. This is how we serve.

A while ago, my oldest grandson was visiting and I asked him to help set up my Twitter account. I have never used Twitter but thought it might be a fun way to promote my writing. Now I know who controls Twitter. I closed my X account. I found another social media outlet that might work. It's called Blue Sky Social. Time to read and fact check this out.

I certainly believe we must be knowledgeable of our current interactions and happenings. I will keep up the fact checking and follow the truth. I will read and learn and then do it my Canadian way. My elbows are up: buy Canadian, stay out of the US, boycott companies owned by billionaires who have joined his madness and are promoting despicable products and policies. I have always had and will continue to have an affinity for all our good and wonderful southern neighbours, especially those who may have become collateral damage of his rule and our resulting Elbows Up campaign. I am sorry for your losses and can only hope that they spur you on to put your elbows up and fight for the values upon which your country was founded. You are our friends and I don't want to lose you but I have put my elbows up. I am Canadian.

Along with keeping my elbows up, I will fill my world with love and laughter and infinite hope. Once again, I will always remember Martin Luther King and I hope you do too. It is as relevant today as it was then.

This excerpt is taken from *Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 1963*.

You may well ask: "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored. My citing the creation of tension as part of the work of the nonviolent resister may sound rather shocking. But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word "tension." I have earnestly opposed violent tension, but there is a type of constructive, nonviolent tension which is necessary for growth…

…The purpose of our direct action program is to create a situation so crisis packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.

Perhaps Martin Luther King Jr. was saying Elbows Up for us all.

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Clowning around
On Sunday, March 9, Razzamataz Kids' Shows welcomed *Circus Incognitus* to the Northern Lights Pavilion, featuring performer Jamie Adkins of Quebec. The show had a good turnout, despite being rescheduled from a previous date due to inclement weather. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Reform + Restore; adapting to the needs of community

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Taking risks comes with a guaranteed level of uncertainty.

But one thing that's always been clear for Shay Hutchings and Sarah Comer Dollo, is that they will never slow down.

The owners of Reform + Restore: Wellness Hub have been actively growing and expanding their business based on the needs of the community, since they first opened their doors two years ago.

Many would recall that the space was formerly known as simply "The Wellness Hub," but Hutchings and Dollo adapted with the needs. "This change happened organically as our business structure changed and the demand from our clientele grew," Hutchings said. "We quickly felt this shift was what was needed as our community rapidly increased."

With the shift in name came the natural change for growth. The Hub expanded their team to a dozen different instructors, and have started offering new classes such as Circuit, Total Body, Kickboxing, Pedal + Pump, Restorative Mobility and different styles of spin classes. "Having the opportunity to expand our team and add classes has allowed us to accommodate different schedule demands and ensure there is a class to meet all fitness goals," said Dollo.

Locals would recognize Hutchings and Dollo from around the community. With both being active members interwoven into the many veins of the Highlands, they have also always called the Haliburton Highlands 'home'.

Expanding and operating their own business from the place that raised them is something that resonates with the owners, and it's a key factor that they are hoping to carry forward with their team. "The majority of our team resides in Haliburton County and has been a part of our community since the Hub opened," shared Hutchings. "Having these like-minded individuals, who are also community-driven, sparks creativity, energy and passion within the Hub."

Dollo added that with the expansion of the team comes a natural synergy and energy to the space. "With each of them showcasing their individual passions in fitness, that is a large reason for the expansion of the schedule and classes now being offered," she said.

As their tiny dream of a fitness studio continues to evolve, grow, and blossom into something new, vibrant, and different, Hutchings and Dollo naturally look back to the village that has supported them every step of the way. "We have immense gratitude to our community for their continued support as we continue to pivot and grow," said Dollo. "And to our team, we truly can't thank you enough for matching our dedication, passion and commitment to our community. Our dream wouldn't be coming true without all of you," added Hutchings. "We are proud to be your one-stop shop for all things fitness and wellness."

The crew of coaches and trainers who have joined the team at Reform + Restore. In the front are Shay Hutchings and Sarah Comer Dollo, the founders of the facility. /photo by Studio K

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Classifieds, Inside sales
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146 Highland St., Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705 457-1037

Website: www.haliburtonecho.ca
Box 97, Minden K0M 2K0
Phone: 705 286-1288
Website: www.mindentimes.ca

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Perspective

AS THE winter sheds its layers of crusty browned snow, there's a sense of optimism abound.

Fresh start. New beginning. Warmth.

These days that pucker towards positive temperatures suddenly feel balmy; a welcome reprieve from the frigid depths of hibernation.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

In reality, these temperatures are just barely above zero degrees Celsius; essentially winter temperatures themselves.

But here we are, throwing up the windows and welcoming the cool spring whispers into the stale pieces of our homes.

When the sap starts to flow, I know that means it's time for open windows. I bundle myself and my baby into flannel sets, and crack the window each night; allowing the hoot hoots of the owl who lives next door to be the lullaby for the eve.

If these temperatures hit us in the middle of July - or at least the July that we are used to - it would be shocking.

I recall a summer weekend not so very long ago, where the drizzly days wept into nights that dared to dip down into teen temperatures. We stayed up late one night; throwing logs on the fire and adding another layer of crunchy flannel, which felt foreign on our sun-kissed skin.

Perspective. It's something I am made aware of, every time, this time of year. Without a long and hard winter, our spring would not taste so sweet.

This shift in perspective is something I am trying to put into practice these days. It's not always so apparent as the sharp contrasts between seasons. Sometimes it's smaller. A little package of positivity unwrapped like a Hershey's Kiss when we least expect it.

It is often said that comparison can be the thief of joy, but I think it has an opportunity to swing the other way. Comparing two things can showcase growth, beauty, change, and transition.

You can compare where you came from: how much you have grown into the person you are; metamorphasized into something new and beautiful and unique.

You can compare how the seasons have changed: how the days of lulling winter felt never-ending, until the sun began to shine again.

You can compare the growth of your children. How each day they shift and change before your very eyes; becoming the humans they were born to be.

We need comparison in order to have perspective.

And it's so easy, these days, to flop the other way. To look back on times that felt easier, cleaner, simpler, crisper. A time before politics flooded our timelines and corrupt leaders took seats of power. A time before social media held us in a captive grasp, or the headlines made our hearts weep with the empathy that's been buried deep in the hearts of so many.

Yes, there was a time that was easier. We have drunk half the glass, now what do we see?

For so many, we are running on empty. The next steps uncertain, the future a blurred mess of colours and shapes and reminiscent splatterings of our past.

But for others, it is half full. An opportunity to quench the thirst of tomorrow and the new day that waits on the sidelines. A fresh start. New beginning. Warmth.

Now it's time to open the windows.

Top 10 hints that someone celebrated St. Patrick's Day

LEGEND HAD it that St. Patrick, among other things, drove the snakes out of Ireland. This is probably because, back in those days, they had never heard of biodiversity. And while this made him a local hero, I suspect that the places he drove those snakes to, did not think so highly of him.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Yet, as always, some people really celebrated him last Friday. In case you weren't at one of these celebrations, here are the top 10 hints that someone partook in a St. Paddy's Day party.

1. Facial tones still emerald green.
2. Just returned from Vegas after getting married.
3. Heading back to Vegas to get a divorce.
4. Never wants to hear the words River Dance again.
5. Has no clear recollection of last Friday night. Or 2024.
6. Still wearing a lamp shade over head.
7. Insists that you communicate only in whispers.
8. Several new leprechaun and shamrock tattoos.
9. Now fluent in Gaelic swear words.
10. Winces at the thought of singing *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* once more time.

Birch

Birch tree sharing Air with a pair of pines, stripped
bare to its spine,
scraps of skin, dangling from its trunk, its branches,
reaching, between the pines,
the leaves and pine needles once intertwined, the
winter birch, white as bone, poking from Snow on the
side of the road,
surrounded by the plushness of pines, clusters of
pinecones hanging from their branches,
as I crane my neck up to admire them, wondering
how many of them will become trees,
marveling at how the pines birth their future selves
into being, my mittenless fingers grazing their
lower branches,
where icicles dangle from twigs, some, tiny as tears,
one of them, breaking off in my hand, the tip, sharp as
a shard of glass,
as I drop it to the ground, leaving a dent
in the Snow,
wondering whether it would still be here tomorrow,
clinging to a twig, if I had left it alone,
how fragile, the icicles appear, adorning the branches, along with the pinecones,
before they drip into a puddle of Sun or heap of
Snow, their frozen beauty, here, hiding in the pines,
for the blink of an eye,
winter offering these morsels to savour, as I linger
by the side of the road,
peering up at the pines, and the birch that stands
between them, like a pillar of light,
struck by its starkness and all those scraps of skin,
dangling from its trunk,
wondering how many layers would have to be
unraveled to reach the bone of the tree, and whether
the birch feels the cold
more in the places along its spine, where there is
less skin to shield it from Wind and storm.
I stomp through the Snow between the pair of pines,
towards the birch, peeling off a scrap that's clinging
by a shred,
placing the curl of skin in my palm, too many layers
to count, still so many left on the trunk,
wondering, for a moment, how many layers you'd
have to peel off a person to expose their core,
over how many years, or maybe a lifetime, and still,
the deepest, most secret piece of them
would remain sealed in an invisible membrane to
protect the most fragile part of them, that only their
Soul knows,
how I wish I could paste the scrap of birch skin back
onto its trunk, retrieve the icicle from the Snow,
hang it back on its twig, some things are meant to be
left alone, Snow, muffling the earth so it can rest,
my Breath, sharing Air with the pines and birch and
all the other trees that surround them,
as I lurch my way back through the Snow onto the
road, placing the birch scrap into the cave of
my coat pocket,
wondering whether the birch will feel the missing
piece when Wind blows through its bare branches,
battering its trunk,
whether the pair of pines miss the fluttering of the
birches' leaves, brushing against their needles,
the birch, a pillar of light, gleaming between the
pines, their lives, intertwined, here, on the
side of the road,
enduring cold and storm and Night, together, as I
slouch along the road, a smudge in the Snow,
sharing Air with the snowflakes beginning to fall,
curling into layers of coat and sweater and fleece,
and the ones you can't see, sealed deeper than the
roots of winter trees.

Sylvie Kalenda

Elbows up! don't tcha know

MAYBELLE'S
Fireside Stories

DEAR READER,
Why, if ol' Maybelle isn't proud as punch being Canadian today. Prouder than ever. And so are my good friends, Beanpole, Twindle, Vilma Yuccch, Stanley Penelope McBottom, and Sybil Beaucannon Hughes. So, proud in fact, that we are all wearing our Elbows Up! t-shirts over turtle necks and warm winter under wear, don't tcha know.

So proud of our outgoing Prime Minister who stood up to that maniacal bully to the south with grace, determination and strength. So proud of all of us Canucks who through our actions stand shoulder to shoulder to protect our economy and keep our dollars here at home.

Nobody wanted this. And so many have bowed to that bully and his comrades. But we stand Canada Strong! And we must and will continue to, of that I am certain.

(I have to add this here) … of that I am certain as long as we don't fall prey to disinformation and fearmongering agendas right here at home. And yes, it is happening. And we mustn't be fooled by it.

More than ever, we need a leader who understands and has had great success steering economies through rough waters. Yes, economies, plural. Whose expertise helped Canada during the Harper administration when he was appointed to run the Bank of Canada back in 2008, helping to steer our country through a global financial crisis, and the UK during Brexit. Does ol' Maybelle think he is the right man for the time? YES! Do I also see disinformation, okay let's call it what it is…out and out LIES about him coming from the opposition in television commercials and social media? I do and it makes me cringe. And I don't want to cringe. I want to feel healthy and strong. Canada strong.

We are seeing with our own eyes the veil of the orange bully's agenda finally being lifted and who has been pulling his strings all along. We are seeing Americans who fell prey to his constant spewing of false stories … who believed the country was falling apart and that only he could save it – now realizing they were DUPED! Now they show up in droves to Town Hall meetings to air their grievances. So many, in fact, that those holding the meetings are being told to shut them down. Let's not fall prey to the same thing happening here in Canada.

I don't know about you, but ol' Maybelle always chooses people in my life who think not only of themselves and their own pocketbook, but of the well-being of each other, our neighbours and those less fortunate than we are, who can use our help.

Elbows up! Dear Reader. Elbows way up, don't tcha know.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories and her novel: "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" are now available at www.amazon.com.

Find your magic

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

I HAVE BEEN thinking about the work we do at Community Living, how there are good days and challenges, grief and joy, hard work and fun recreation. We have skilled, professional and well-trained staff working in all corners of the county in order to make sure people with a developmental disability can connect in meaningful ways to roles, opportunities and people of their choosing. What a privilege it is to work in a field that offers so much diversity, challenge and reward.

As part of my work, I attended an advisory committee meeting to council. I was able to attend a meeting where a staff person of the municipality spoke about her work and a project that she was launching. Her aim here was to advise the committee where I was attending about her project, which was very interesting. What stuck with me more though was her passion and interest in the work that she was doing. It was a magical elixir. She presented her project and talked about the work that she was doing with such joy and enthusiasm. I think all of us in the room could imagine her love of her work. We were all entranced by her energy and excitement. How fantastic is that? To be able to not only work hard in a chosen role, but also to absolutely love what you do and really believe in the impact that it has.

Like all people, as I get older, I really do start to realize how short life is and how meticulously important it is to spend our time whenever we can do things that make our hearts sing. And while that cannot always be our jobs or other roles that we must attend to. I think it is critical that we find at least one thing that we can take part in, a hobby or club or job where we really get to stretch our wings, lose track of time, get inspired and find that passion and interest. I think one of the keys is to reflect on when the last time was that you lost track of time, when you looked up and hours had gone by, or someone had to text you to say- are you ever getting home? What was that activity? What was at its heart? It should offer a pretty good indicator of what you like best to explore, do or learn about and you can build from there.

In big and small ways, it is how we spend our days, hours and minutes that does define how we spend our life. I feel like not every day is perfect in our work at the agency, but there are so many moments that remind us of the mission we are moving closer to and that we can have a huge impact. My challenge is this - seek out your own magic elixir.

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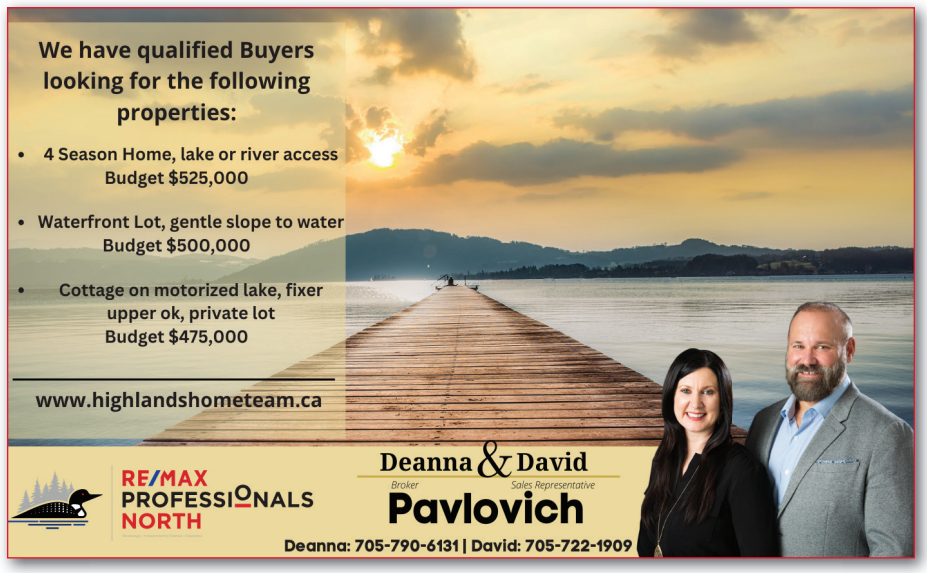
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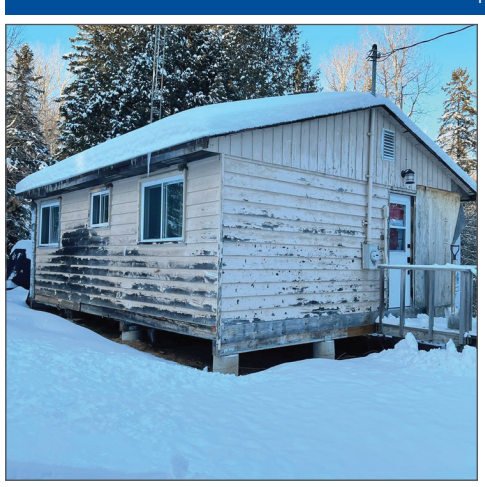

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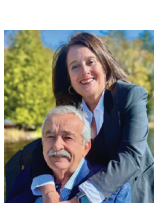

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SPRING Cottage Life SHOW
March 20 - 23

RE/MAX Professionals North, Brokerage will be at the Spring Cottage Life Show.

If you are thinking of selling your property this is a great opportunity to promote it. Contact a local RE/MAX agent for more details.

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Ducks by Debi Ireland

Woodpecker by Jill Moulton

Mourning Dove by Jill Moulton

Snowy deer by Tammy Nash

Swan by Debi Ireland

Fisher by Tammy Nash

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Turkey in flight by Debi Ireland

Squirrel by Vivien Mausz

Curious chickens by Lou Weber

Textile Recycling

Along with donating gently used clothing to the Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store and the SIRCH Community Services' Thrift Warehouse, Dysart ratepayers can drop off textiles for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

Place textiles in clear bags to help keep materials dry.

☑ Items you wear "head to foot" (including undergarments)
Clothes (including undergarments and socks), Hats, Scarves, Ties, Jackets, Coats, Belts, Shoes (including single shoes), Jewelry, Purses, Backpacks)

Single and paired shoes accepted

☑ Bedding, Blankets. Curtains, Fabric, Pillows, Sleeping Bags, Towels

Success! In 2024, Dysart collected 28.85 metric tonnes (63,603 lbs) of textiles for recycling!

☑ While textiles should be clean, our textile recycling program also accepts torn, worn out, stained or scrap textiles.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Lenten Lunches
When: Wednesdays at noon
Where: March 19 – Highland Hills United Church
March 26 – St. Paul's Anglican Church
April 2 – Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
April 9 – Minden Bible Church
Service at noon followed by Soup Lunch. By Donation.

Support and independence: Finding the balance
Aging Together as Community and the County of Haliburton
When: Friday, March 21
Where: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129, Haliburton or by Zoom
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Growing older brings changes, but you can stay healthy and live comfortably in your home for many years. Please join us to learn more.
Register by March 18 by calling/texting Connie Wood 705-457-7215, or by email constancewood@gmail.com

Knitting for Warmth Cupcake Tea
When: Tuesday, March 25 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. - Lower Level
Knitting for Warmth 3,000th Blanket Celebration. In appreciation for the 99,000 (8x8) squares made for our blankets. Because of you, someone is warm tonight. See our blanket display and receive information. Highland Hills Outreach Project Mary Trepanier 705-286-5173

HHOA Wild Game Dinner
When: Saturday, March 29, Bar opens at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Tickets: $50.00 person
Silent Auction. 50/50 draw. Tickets on sale now. For credit card purchases call Laurie at HHOA on Tuesday and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 705 457-9664 or Linda at 705 457-2064. Or drop in to see Laurie at HHOA on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The wild game served at this event has not been inspected under the R.S.O. meat inspection act. Domestic meat available. Website: hhoa.on.ca

Recurring events

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library New Book Nook Hours
When: 1st, 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/ fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome.

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Maple season back to normal, say local producers

THOMAS SMITH
County Life Staff

A look at the different varieties of syrup harvested in Haliburton. /FILE

Last year, around the middle of February, there was no snow in the bush in Haliburton County. With the unusually warm weather, syrup producers had to jump at the opportunity to produce syrup early. Without any snow, they had little to no difficulty maneuvering through their forests to tap their trees for their sweet nectar, maple sap.

This year, with snow up to your waist in the bush, local syrup producers are saying that the weather has returned to what is typically expected in the county this time of year.

Esson Creek Maple says that they tapped their trees in late January and early February due to the warm winter season, one of the earliest seasons they have had. The season started early and finished early, with sap flowing for around seven weeks.

"The deep snow this year has resulted in making the process of tapping the trees especially challenging," said Heather Bramham, co-owner of Esson Creek Maple and Green Mantle Mineral Tours. Even with snowshoes and experience."

Bramham and her husband Josh, as well as her in-laws Mark and Sandra Bramham have been running Esson Creek Maple since 2016.

Mark Bramham says that tapping the trees took nine more hours this season than last year. In 2024 it took 43 hours to install 2,200 taps.

After retiring fromteaching in Sault Ste. Marie, Mark and Sandra purchased 300 acres in Wilberforce. While camping and using the land for recreation, Sandra's mother, May, noticed an outcropping of a mineral formation on the property. It turned out that their property had rare calcite deposits, with crystal growth scattered throughout. After years of trying to secure the rights and paying for assessments by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests, Mark and Sandra were able to obtain the mineral rights to the adjacent Crown land to protect the unique mineral deposits for future generations.

Throughout the summer and fall, the Bramhams offer tours through Greenmantle Mineral Tours, their sister business to Esson Creek Maple. The Bramhams take extreme care when creating their trails throughout their property, ensuring not to disturb the land and showcase the untouched ruggedness of the Haliburton Highlands.

"We own this property," said Sandra Bramham on CBC's Still Standing television show. "But we've always said, we're just the caretakers."

Greenmantle's tours take around four hours, with visitors being given a geological review, a walk through the forest, mineral viewing, and a tasting of their maple syrup. More often than not, Mark is the one that conducts the tours.

"Whether it's processing timber, bottling syrup, providing tours, maintaining trails, ordering supplies or meeting folks who stop by the Sugarhouse to buy syrup or see minerals," said Heather Bramham. "Mark is a hardworking and dedicated individual. He is the backbone of our businesses."

Esson Creek Maple uses 60 acres of their bush to harvest the maple sap, says Bramham. Around 2,200 trees are tapped, with some even having more than one tap.

"They are complimentary, yet different businesses under one umbrella," said Bramham.

With their property including part of a calcite dome and rare mineral specimens like fluororichterite, Bramham says that the richness of minerals and undisturbed forest enhances the syrup's taste.

"When you try the syrup at the sugar house, you get the sweetness right off the bat, but then you can feel the minerals," said Bramham.

Using a vacuum system, sap from the 2,200 trees is sucked into a storage tank. The sap is then put through their reverse osmosis machine two or three times, increasing the sugar content of the sap to around 16 to 17 degrees brix (sugar content). Afterwards, the sap is brought into the evaporator where it is boiled to reach 66 to 68 brix. Any less and the sap will be considered sweet sap and any more, the maple syrup will be considered candy and likely have sugar crystals form.

Esson Creek Maple's maple syrup can be purchased online, with bookings for mineral tours available through the same URL at essoncreekmaple.ca.

Other syrup providers in the area echoed the Bramham's experiences. "Last year was very strange," said Rick Wood, co-owner of The Colour of Wood. "This is more of a normal season."

Last year, March 3 marked the Wood's earliest boiling date, ever.

The Colour of Wood is located at 1255 Peterson Road, near Carnarvon, where they offer maple syrup for sale, in addition to Wendy Wood's artwork.

So far, the Woods have had two boils this season. With the deep snow, Wood says that it was a lot more difficult getting things set up and ready, compared to last year. They are unsure as to how this season will fare with volume.

"Right now, we are just waiting on Mother Nature," said Wood.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m., Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs) Ladies Darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Mixed darts 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a weekly supper special. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) 3rd week at 2 p.m.
Please follow our Facebook page - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 441 Kinmount. Do you need a space to host an event: book our hall today, call 705-488-3462 and leave a message or call Teresa at 705-928-7105.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot.
Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 7 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Mondays - March 17, 24, 31 – Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesdays - March 19, 26, Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
Thursdays -March 13, 20, 27, Cornhole, $5/player, 7 p.m.
March 27 - HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Fridays - March 21, Fish & Chips, 5 to 8 p.m. $15 for 1 piece, $20 for 2 pieces
March 28 - Wings and Jam Session, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
March 28 - Seniors 55+ Lunch, $17, 12 pm
Saturdays - March 22, 29, Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

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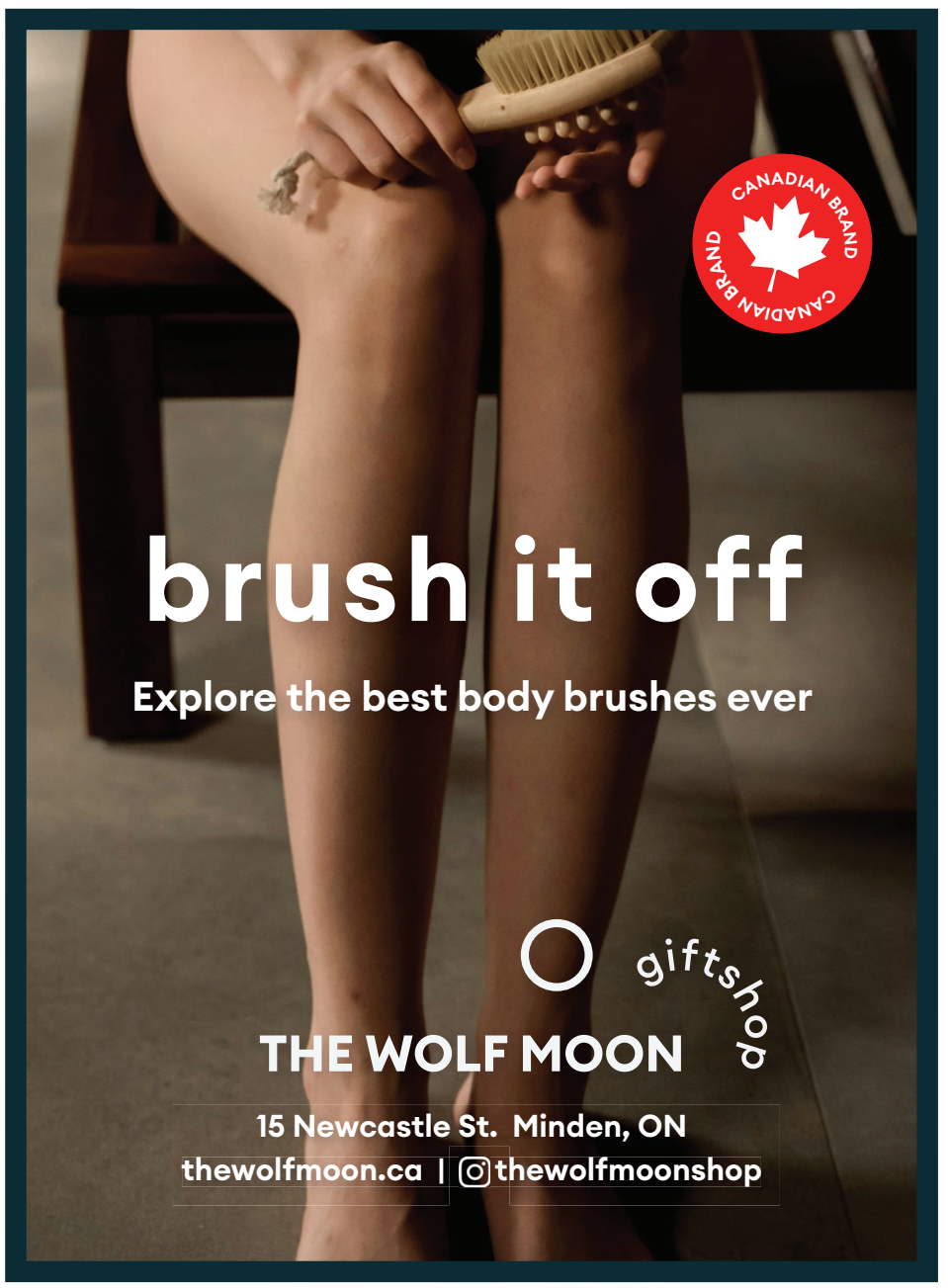
Hyland Ice Supply is now accepting applications for the 2025 summer season for Drivers Helpers, Production Staff and Drivers (D, DZ, G). Interviews will be held early April. Please contact us via e-mail or telephone **info@hylandice.com** **1-705-448-2973** Attention Carol



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Number 1620
Monday, March 14, 1994

Eight students from Archie Stouffer Public School were in the spotlight at the Royal Canadian Legion in Minden last week for the public speaking contest. Pictured with Legion representative Lois Adamson, are the competitors. They are: front row (l to r) Becky Wallace (second, junior), Kate Heming (first, junior), Ryan White, Jacob Poirier and Shawna Ray (third, junior). Back row (l to r) Jennifer Wales (third, intermediate), Ryan Dawson (second, intermediate), Luke Lester (first, intermediate) and Lois Adamson.

Colourful candidates in Kinmount

Thursday evening in Kinmount wasn't without its colourful moments.

The all-candidates meeting featured tempers, name calling and a near expulsion.

"Young and fresh" Brad Bradamore says he'll fix the government.

Candidate John Tremel took offense at not being asked to respond to a question. His protests prompted moderator Clayton Cameron to order Tremel to settle down or leave. The meeting was temporarily adjourned and Cameron was about to escort the offender to the door when cooler heads prevailed. Tremel later rejoined the panel.

Brad Bradamore added some colour of a different sort, breaking up the seriousness of the occasion by interjecting some comic relief that seemed to be appreciated by the crowd. "You're lucky. I'm still young, and fresh and clean blood," he said, responding to a question from the audience. "I'll fix it for you."

Liberal candidate Sharon McCrae took the opportunity to lash out at the Tory ad campaign hinting that she and her party supports legislation that would allow spousal benefits for same-sex couples. She vehemently denied any support of such legislation.

See pages 2, 5 and 6 for more coverage

Local taxpayers could be asked for $45 each to support county government

Unless severe cuts are made, County taxpayers will see another $45 added to their tax bills.

The Haliburton County Board of Education and County Council are each struggling to bring down their 1994 budgets under the watchful eye of the Taxpayers' Coalition.

The school board is looking at a preliminary budget that represents a 3.9 per cent increase in taxes. This increase, if approved, would mean an average increase of about $20.

County Council opened its budget deliberations looking at a 30 per cent hike. Last week councillors pared this down to 19 per cent and then held a meeting to seek public input.

An 18.7 per cent increase in the county levy would mean an average tax increase of about $25.

The school board is now in the process of weighing the impact of further cuts to its budget. The board's administrative committee presented a list of possible cuts to the management committee last Tuesday, which trustees will consider before final passage of the budget.

After trimming more than 11 per cent out of its budget, county council will be hard pressed to find room for further cuts. In fact, councillors may be adding to its expenses in order to further subsidize the Chamber of Commerce.

Council has budgeted $50,420 for the chamber, which matches last year's grant. The chamber, however, is asking for $89,000.

At the close of last Wednesday's public meeting, the chamber made its pitch to council. Warden Jim McMahon said he was impressed with the presentation and the active manner with which the chamber has been promoting the county.

Council, however, was not prepared to immediately deal with this request for an increased grant. McMahon said it will be addressed further on March 16, prior to the final review and passage of the budget.

Education and county taxes are over and above whatever levies are set by the individual municipalities. In Minden, this increase is expected to be minimal.

Council applies for infrastructure funds

The Anson, Hindon and Minden Council has agreed to apply for $656,000 in federal assistance under the infrastructure program. The resolution endorsing the application was made at the March 10 meeting.

According to an announcement made at the time, council believes the municipal share of the funding, $328,000 can be found, "...with little or no increase in the general mill rate." The total value of the projects being proposed under the program in $984,000.

Among the projects approved under this plan, in the order of priority set by the council, were:

• Office expansion and retro-fit	$424,000
• River bank restoration	$170,000
• Upgrades to the sanitary sewer system and water system	$110,000
• Replace major culverts in the road system	$60,000
• Reconstruction of the Bobcaygeon Road	$200,000
• Tennis court rehabilitation	$20,000

According to the council, the impact of this work will be felt this year and continue into 1995.

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